

Message Text

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54

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 201345Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6249

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJ: ANTI-LIBYAN PRESS CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

SUMMARY. PRESS PLAYS UP SADAT'S REFUSAL OF ANY MEDIATION OF LIBYAN DISPUTE AND HIS ASSURANCES THAT QADHAFI WILL NOT ESCAPE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS CRIMES. POSSIBILITY OF LIBYAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP/DEFENSE TREATY PROMINENTLY REPORTED. MORE ON LIBYAN SUBVERSION AND POSSIBLE COUP ATTEMPT AGAINST QADHAFI. END SUMMARY.

1. RED BANNER IN AKHBAR PROCLAIMS SADAT "REFUSES TO FORGIVE QADHAFI" WHILE ALL PAPERS COVER HIS REJECTION OF ANY OFFERS

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OF MEDIATION. STORIES, WHICH EXPAND ON BEHIND THE SCENES

CONTRACTS ON LIBYA DURING NAC, CLAIM QADHAFI REQUESTED NUMEROUS ARAB HEADS OF STATE AND FONMINS TO MEDIATE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA. SADAT RECEIVED THEM IN COLOMBO BUT REFUSED TO DISCUSS TOPIC OF RECONCILIATION. ACCORDING THESE REPORTS, SOME ARAB LEADERS INSISTED THAT TOPIC SHOULD BE DISCUSSED BECAUSE QADHAFI "STILL YOUNG" AND HAD ATTEMPTED NORMALIZE RELATIONS SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST. SADAT REPORTED REPLY WAS THAT PAST QADHAFI INITIATIVES INVARIABLY FOLLOWED BY RENEWED ATTACKS ON EGYPT. SADAT SAID HE HAD ALWAYS MANAGED TO FORGET THESE BUT SITUATION NOW COMPLETELY DIFFERENT BECAUSE EGYPTIAN PATIENCE IS EXHAUSTED, AND, SADAT CONTINUED, "WE CANNOT STAND IDLE WHEN IT COMES TO KILLING THE PEOPLE OF EGYPT." TITO REPORTEDLY HEARD SIMILAR REPLY TO MEDIATION OFFER. REPORTS GO ON TO SAY THAT SOME ARAB HEADS OF STATE HALFHEARTEDLY PARROTED QADHAFI LINE THAT BOMBINGS IN EGYPT WERE DOMESTIC MATTER. SADAT DISMISSED THIS WITH REPLY THAT NO SUCH INCIDENT HAS TAKEN PLACE IN EGYPT SINCE END OF POLITICAL OPPRESSION FIVE YEARS AGO AND NOTED CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA BOMBINGS FOLLOWED EXPOSURE OF QADHAFI PLOT AGAINST SUDAN. SADAT ALSO EXPRESSED ASSURANCES TO FAMILIES OF INJURED "THAT QADHAFI WILL NOT GET AWAY WITH IT."

2. ALL PAPERS ALSO GIVE PROMINENT TREATMENT TO REPORT BY JORDANIAN AKHBAR AL-USBUA THAT CONTACTS UNDERWAY BETWEEN LIBYA AND SOVIET UNION ON CONCLUSION OF 10-YEAR FRIENDSHIP AND DEFENSE TREATY. PAPER QUOTED RELIABLE SOURCES AS SAYING "IMPORTANT SOVIET PERSONALITY" VISITED TRIPOLI RECENTLY AND REACHED AGREEMENT WITH QADHAFI OF OFFICIAL VIST TO USSR BY LIBYAN DELEGATION IN NEAR FUTURE. PAPER SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY THAT QADHAFI WOULD HEAD DELEGATION HIMSELF.

3. LIBYAN BOMBER SINGS. SECOND LIBYAN AGENT RECENTLY IMPLICATED IN AUGUST 8 CAIRO BOMBING TELLING ALL TO POLICE, ACCORDING TO PRESS. DEFENDENT RECOUNTED THAT LIBYAN INTELLIGENCE TARGETTING INHABITANTS OF WESTERN DESERT FOR RECRUITMENT FOR TERRORISM IN EGYPT AND TRAINING THEM IN SPECIAL CAMP. PRISONER TOLD STORY THT HE WENT TO LIBYA IN SEARCH OF WORK AND MET FIRST DEFENDANT, WHO ASKED HIM TO WORK IN OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR ISSUING LIBYAN IDENTITY CARDS TO WESTERN DESERT TRIBESMEN. DEFENDANT CLAIMED THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO JOIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIBYAN ARMY BUT REFUSED. HE THEN TAKE TO MEET WITH INTELLIGENCE OFFICER NAMED IDRIS AL-SEHEITY WHO "TEMPTED THEM WITH MONEY." DEFENDANT AND ACCOMPLICES WERE ASSIGNED MISSION OF CAIRO BOMBING IN RETURN FOR 1300 POUNDS APIECE AND GIVEN HALF-HOUR DEMOLITIONS COURSE. THEY THEN PACKED INTO CAR WITH THEIR EXPLOSIVES AND SMUGGLED INTO EGYPT.

4. MEANWHILE, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR NOTICES EXHORTINGS CITIZENRY

TO VIGILANCE HAVE BECOME REGULAR FEATURE OF CAIRO DAILIES,
SOMETIMES APPEARING ON SEVERAL PAGES OF EACH EDITION.
TODAY'S THEME STRESSED OBLIGATION TO INFORM POLICE IMMEDIATELY
OF ANY RENTALS OF APARTMENTS TO FOREIGNERS (I.E. LIBYANS).

5. LIBYAN COUP SPECULATION. PAGE ONE ITEM IN GUMHURRIYA
WAS REPORT THAT "RELIABLE WESTERN SOURCE IN WASHINGTON"
TOLD RADIO ISRAEL THAT RECENT LARGE SCALE MILITARY MOVEMENTS
IN TRIPOLI ARE PRELUDE TO ANTI-QADHAFI COUP. SOURCE ADDED
THAT IT POSSIBLE QADHAFI WILL BE ARRESTED IF HE TRIES TO RETURN
TO TRIPOLI. STORY ALSO SAYS RADIO ISRAEL REPORTED QADHAFI
FOILED COUP ATTEMPT JUST BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR COLOMBO.

6. COMMENT: SADAT APPEARS TO HAVE CLOSED DOOR HERMETICALLY
ON POSSIBILITY OF DETENTE WITH LIBYA. MEANWHILE, REPEATED
ASSURANCES THAT EGYPT WILL PUNISH QADHAFI CREATING EXPECTANT
MOOD AMONG EGYPTIAN PUBLIC. WHILE NO ONE EXPECTS TO BE INFORMED
BEFORE HAND WHEN AND HOW EGYPT WILL MAKE ITS MOVE, SADAT
WILL NOT BE ABLE TO KEEP UP COMBINATION OF STERN TALK AND
OSTENSIBLE INACTIVITY FOR LONG WITHOUT DAMAGING CREDIBILITY
WHICH ALREADY STRETCHING THIN ON MIDDLE EAST AND DOMESTIC
ECONOMIC ISSUES.
EILTS

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